

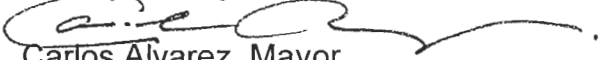


**MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

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**DATE:** August 18, 2006

**TO:** George Burgess  
County Manager

**FROM:**   
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor  
Miami-Dade County

**SUBJECT:** Response to: Public Housing and Section 8 Vacant Units (Dated August 14, 2006)

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As we all clearly understand, securing necessary funds and the efficient allocation of existing funds is crucial to the optimal performance of the County's Public Housing and Section 8 programs. I am sensitive to constraints resulting from federal budget cuts for these programs; however, our residents' dire need for housing does not make such concessions. In my August 14<sup>th</sup> memo, I specifically mention the need to make the necessary budgetary allocations in next fiscal year's budget to ensure that the Miami Dade Housing Agency (MDHA) can successfully complete its mandate.

Still, the issues with vacancies in our public housing go beyond federal funding concerns, and my meetings with representatives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have reassured me of this. The MDHA Management Assistance Team preliminary report noted long standing problems throughout MDHA – such as weaknesses in middle management, administrative support, and direct service functions – for over 14 different buildings at five separate locations. These are examples of matters that are in the process of being addressed within the existing budget.

As I have repeatedly stated, there is no single solution to this crisis and so it is only through our cumulative efforts that we will succeed. I am confident that we will be successful; however, it is even more important that our residents share in this faith.

c: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,  
Board of County Commissioners  
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Courts  
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney  
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board  
Cynthia Curry, Senior Advisor to the Manager